Rules Committee Meeting Minutes
Feb. 2, 2024

Present: Paik, Hoagland, Brewer, Berlin, Katz, Olsen, Messier, Verock, Trim

1. Minutes of the Dec. 15, 2023 Rules Committee Meeting were approved as amended.

2. Suggested agenda items for the March 7, 2024 Faculty Senate Meeting were discussed:

    a. Possible Presentations:
        (i) Donahue Institute
        (ii) Center for Counseling and Public Health (CCPH)
        (iii) Campus Strategic Planning
        (iv) Flex 2.0

    After discussion, approval was given to try to schedule items (i)-(iii) for an upcoming Faculty Senate meeting. Item (iv) will be discussed at a Rules-Admin meeting (and maybe the next Rules Committee meeting) before a decision is needed for scheduling at a Faculty Senate meeting.

    b. Revisions to the Faculty Senate Bylaws. The revised bylaws are stored in a file on OneDrive that can be edited; changes are still ongoing and these changes are being tracked in the document. Wording on the eligibility of members of various groups to serve on committees and councils (sec. 4-3-3) was revised to clarify participation by those who have retired from the University. To place on the Faculty Senate meeting agenda, the revised document will need an e-vote approval by the Rules Committee beforehand. Individuals beyond the Rules Committee are still making changes too.

3. Discussion items (listed in order discussed and designated by letter on the agenda):

    i. Recent changes to Disability Services Policies. Concern was raised that the changes will increase faculty workload. This concern is likely best handled by the MSP.

    a. Nominations and appointments to the following committees were considered and made:
        (i) Ombuds Search Committee (note: the Administration is considering outsourcing the Ombuds position)
        (ii) Ad Hoc Committee on Departmental Statements
        (iii) Faculty Senate Secretary Search Committee
        (iv) Advancing Community Democracy Dialogue Working Group Proposal Review Committee

b. Commonwealth Honors College (CHC) is requesting to increase the number of credits available for their thesis seminars. The nominal number of credits is 3, but exceptions for more credits have been made in the past. The Academic Matters Councils is supposed to review requests for course credit exceptions above 3, but these reviews have not always occurred. The CHC wants to regularize up to 6 or 8 credits for these courses. Their proposal is not yet at the Rules Committee, but the Rules Committee Chair would like the Rules Committee to pass a policy on credit exceptions now.

   The following statement was approved unanimously (8 yes, 0 no):

   > "The Rules Committee will require the Academic Matters Council to review and approve additional credits for thesis seminars (499 courses), with a maximum of 4 credits allowed."

   After this approval, there was a brief discussion of the acceptable level of student collaboration in a thesis project.

c. Strategic Planning. Several Rules Committee members noted with dissatisfaction the limited number of faculty/librarians appointed to important working groups. For example, just one faculty member who regularly teaches classes was appointed to the Education Group. Without sufficient faculty/librarian participation into the process, there will be little buy-in into the results.

   Ways to express this concern and make changes expediently were discussed. The Chair of the Rules Committee will first approach the co-Chairs of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee (Anne Massey and MJ Peterson) to express these views. If concerns remain, this issue may be inserted as an agenda item into the next Rules-Admin meeting (in about 3 weeks).

Agenda items c, e-h and j were not formally considered today.